OPINION 1123
PLESIADAPIDAE TROUESSART, 1897 GIVEN NOMENCLATURAL PRECEDENCE OVER PLATYCHOEROPIDAE LYDEKKER, 1887 (MAMMALIA)

RULING.- (1) Under the plenary powers it is hereby ruled that the family-group name PLESIADAPIDAE Trouessart, 1897 (type genus *Plesiadapis* Gervais, 1877) is to be given nomenclatural precedence over the family-group name PLATYCHOEROPIDAE Lydekker, 1887 (type genus *Platychoerops* Charlesworth, 1855), whenever the two names are regarded as synonyms.

(2) The following generic names are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology with the Name Numbers specified:

(a) *Platychoerops* Charlesworth, 1855 (gender, masculine), type species, by monotypy, *Platychoerops richardsonii* Charlesworth, 1855 (Name Number 2072);

(b) *Plesiadapis* Gervais, 1877 (gender, masculine), type species, by monotypy, *Plesiadapis tricuspidens* Gervais, 1877 (Name Number 2073).

(3) The following specific names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology with the Name Numbers specified:

(a) *richardsonii* Charlesworth, 1855, as published in the binomen *Platychoerops richardsonii* (specific name of type species of *Platychoerops* Charlesworth, 1855) (Name Number 2658);

(b) *tricuspidens* Gervais, 1877, as published in the binomen *Plesiadapis tricuspidens* (specific name of type species of *Plesiadapis* Gervais, 1877 (Name Number 2659).

(4) The following Family-Group Names are hereby placed on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology with the Name Numbers and endorsements specified:

(a) PLESIADAPIDAE Trouessart, 1897 (type genus *Plesiadapis* Gervais, 1877) (Name Number 493) with an endorsement that it is to be given nomenclatural precedence over PLATYCHOEROPIDAE Lydekker, 1887 (type-genus *Platychoerops* Charlesworth, 1855) whenever the two names are regarded as synonyms;

(b) PLATYCHOEROPIDAE Lydekker, 1887 (type genus *Platychoerops* Charlesworth, 1855) (Name Number

494) with an endorsement that it is not to be given priority over PLESIADAPIDAE Trouessart, 1897 (type-genus *Plesiadapis* Gervais, 1877) whenever the two names are regarded as synonyms.

(5) The generic name *Platychoerops* Klunzinger, 1879 (Pisces), a junior homonym of *Platychoerops* Charlesworth, 1855, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology with the Name Number 2100.

HISTORY OF THE CASE Z.N.(S.) 2052

An application for the use of the plenary powers to suppress the family-group name PLATYCHOEROPIDAE Lydekker, 1887 was first received from Dr Philip D. Gingerich (then of *Yale University)* on 28 June 1973. It was sent to the printer on 24 October 1973 and published on 28 June 1974 in *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 30: 207–209. Public Notice of the possible use of the plenary powers in the case was given in the same part of the *Bulletin* as well as to the statutory serials and to two mammalogical serials. Dr Holthuis pointed out that the family-group name PLATYCHOEROPIDAE could not be suppressed so long as the name of its type genus – *Platychoerops* Charlesworth, 1855 – remained available. His comment was published in *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 31: 177. His suggestion that PLESIADAPIDAE should be given nomenclatural precedence over PLATYCHOEROPIDAE was accepted by the applicant. No other comment was received.

DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

On 7 April 1978 the members of the Commission were invited to vote under the Three-Month Rule in Voting Paper (1978)5 in Part 1 for or against the proposition that the correct spelling of the generic name proposed by Charlesworth in 1855 is *Platychoerops,* and in Part 2, for or against giving PLESIADAPIDAE Trouessart, 1897 nomenclatural precedence over PLATYCHOEROPIDAE Lydekker, 1887. At the close of the voting period on 7 July 1978 the state of the voting was as follows:

Part 1

Affirmative Votes – twenty-one (21) received in the following order: Melville, Holthuis, Eisenmann, Brinck, Vokes, Sabrosky, Cogger, Habe, Mroczkowski, Tortonese, Binder, Willink, Nye, Alvarado, Corliss, Starobogatov, Bayer, Heppell, Bernardi, Ride, Welch

Negative Votes – none (0)

Part 2

Affirmative Votes – sixteen (16) received in the following order: Melville, Eisenmann, Brinck, Vokes, Sabrosky, Habe, Mroczkowski, Tortonese, Binder, Nye, Alvarado, Corliss, Starobogatov, Bayer, Bernardi, Ride

Negative Votes – five (5): Holthuis, Cogger, Willink, Heppell, Welch

No voting papers were returned by Dupuis and Kraus.

The following comments were sent in by members of the Commission with their voting papers:

Heppell: "I support the proposals as set out on p. 208 of the application except as they concern the family name PLATYCHOEROPIDAE, but I cannot agree with Dr Holthuis that this name as published by Lydekker, 1887, cannot be suppressed by the Commission while *Platychoerops* Charlesworth, 1855 remains an available name. If it is suppressed for the purposes of both the Law of Priority and the Law of Homonymy, any subsequent author may establish a family based on that genus, and the name of that family would take its priority from that author's publication of it. Other authors if they so wished could regard the name as a junior synonym of PLESIADAPIDAE. I therefore vote for the suppression of PLATYCHOEROPIDAE Lydekker, 1887, for the purposes of both the Law of Priority and the Law of Homonymy."

Ride: "While I vote for the proposal, I should have preferred the original proposal except that PLATYCHOEROPIDAE should have been suppressed for both priority and homonymy. If such action were taken, the need foreseen by Dr Holthuis could be met by the proposal of a new PLATYCHOEROPIDAE, junior to PLESIADAPIDAE Trouessart, 1897."

[I have considered the comments by Dr Heppell and Dr Ride and their implications. Clearly, if the revised proposals are adopted under the plenary powers (as they have now been adopted), then there is already a family-group name PLATYCHOEROPIDAE Lydekker, 1887, for use in its own right to designate a taxon distinct from PLESIADAPIDAE at any level in the family group, or to be treated as junior synonym. I cannot, therefore, see what would be gained by allowing another proposal of an identical family-group name, with a different author and date, except confusion. I do not consider that their comments justify a re-opening of the case, with a fresh advertisement of the possible use of the plenary powers, and have accordingly proceeded to issue the present Opinion. R.V.M.]

ORIGINAL REFERENCES

The following are the original references for the names placed on Official Lists and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

PLATYCHOEROPIDAE Lydekker, 1887, *Cat. Foss. Mamm. Brit. Mus. (nat. Hist.)*, vol. 5: 3

Platychoerops Charlesworth, 1855, *Rep. brit. Assoc. Adv. Sci.* vol. 24 (Liverpool, 1854), Not. Abstr.: 80

Platychoerops Klunzinger, 1879, *Anz. Akad. Wiss. Wien*, vol. 16: 255

PLESIADAPIDAE Trouessart, 1897, *Cat. Mamm.*, vol. 1: 75

Plesiadapis Gervais, 1877, *J. Zool. Paris*, vol. 6: 76

richardsonii, Platychoerops, Charlesworth, 1855, *Rep. brit. Assoc. Adv. Sci.* vol. 24 (Liverpool, 1854): 80

tricuspidens, Plesiadapis, Gervais, 1877, *J. Zool. Paris*, vol. 6: 76

CERTIFICATE

I certify that the votes cast on Voting Paper (78)5 were cast as set out above, that the proposal contained in that voting paper has been duly adopted under the plenary powers, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 1123.

R.V. MELVILLE
Secretary
International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature
London
5 October 1978